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Against Women

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of States parties

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

V.87 89122

INTRODUCTION

In the interest of ensuring that this report by the Dominican Republic, which is the first of its kind to be submitted by our country since the ratification of the Convention, can be read as a document providing a genuine description of the circumstances surrounding the promotion and advancement of the Dominican woman and of the work being done to modify those circumstances in order that women may assume their rightful role as citizens with a voice and existence of their own and may emerge from silence and cultural marginality into a direct involvement in the economic, political and ideological currents of society, we consider it important to preface our discussion with a brief survey of our social, political and educational history in order that the contributing factors underlying current conditions may be better defined and understood.

Background

The Dominican Republic stands as one of the countries that throughout its entire history has known a vigorous women's movement.

The first reference to the education of women to be found in the Dominican Republic dates back to the year 1866 in the form of a regulation pertaining to the establishment of primary schools and recommending that there should be the same number of educational institutions for girls as for boys. This ruling opened the door to knowledge, whose possession can be the key to finding and formulating answers as well as to posing fresh questions. At a time of great political instability in the country, conditions were not propitious for the implementation of this regulation. The decade of the 1870s was marked by the figure of Socorro del Rosario Sánchez, a woman educator who championed the right to knowledge in all areas of intellectual endeavour, and it was during that same period that the notion that education for women had necessarily to be limited to primary studies began to lose ground. Around 1880 education was extended into new areas, while the year 1881 witnessed the establishment of an educational institution for the "training of women of reason and for duty" in what was to be the first major step towards access by women to higher education. The first women students or general pharmacy and accountancy graduated in 1888. An effort had been undertaken at this time to encourage women to develop an awareness both of themselves and of their potential role in shaping the destiny of their country.

The beginning of the twentieth century (1911) saw the first woman graduate in the field of medicine and surgery. By 1920 there was already a nucleus of young women enrolled in university studies. Higher education for women was tolerated when it became impossible to prevent it. At the same time, journals and clubs were founded that gave expression to the desire of Dominican women to contribute to the progress of their country and to enjoy greater opportunities to do so. A demand for equality of civil and citizen's rights was raised.

During the period of the 1940s, despite the general situation created by the dictatorship, there was great interest in promoting population growth; the result was the glorification of maternity, as evidenced by the creation, under Law No. 279 of 22 May 1940, of the Julia Molina Maternity Prize for the mother with the largest number of living children.

The first step in what might be called the institutional advancement of Dominican women occurred during that same year in the form of Law No. 390 of 18 December 1940, which recognized the legal equality of women and granted them civil rights, but was careful to leave untouched traditional family structures. Women were granted the right to the free exercise of the trade, occupation, profession or business of their choice, but with the husband retaining the power to oppose such activities "when the interests of the household or the family so

require". In addition, husbands were obliged to provide everything necessary to meet the needs of their wife. The husband was recognized as the head of the family with the right to select the common place of residence. The legislative measures introduced extended to the strengthening of the official marriage relationship, and under Law No. 499 of 1944 an easier procedure became available for transforming the free (consensual) union - the predominant form of cohabitation - into a legal marital bond. The Constitution of 1942 recognized the political equality of men and women.

During the period between 1946 and 1960 the proportion of women enrolled in university education ranged between 20 and 25 per cent. It is important to point out that one of the four women who signed the Charter of the United Nations was the Dominican representative. In addition, this same woman was an active participant in the work of the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women.

During the years from 1960 to 1965, in keeping with the social, political and economic events of the period, women were regarded as an underutilized human resource, with the result that guidelines and measures were introduced to facilitate their integration within the development process. This concept proved to be mistaken, since in reality there was no such lack of involvement on the part of women in development, but rather a different form of participation. In fact, the role of women in the political events of that period was considerable and indeed more significant than in all preceding periods, a point graphically illustrated by the fact that a woman was even put forward as a candidate for the vice-presidency of the country in 1962. This same period saw the emergence of the Federation of Dominican Women with its ties to the national political parties. The women who went forth from this process had a vision of themselves and of their commitment to the community that was far removed from traditional attitudes.

The course of social events, the account taken of women in economic policy and the impact of the renascent feminist movement were to be the factors that would come together to alter the life of women during the decades of the 1960s and 1970s.

The appointment by the executive branch of 26 women as provincial governors marked a prelude to a change in the perception of women as aspirants to public office. Progress in education and changes in the law were advanced as policy objectives. For rural women, the first steps were taken in the design of training programmes, nutrition courses and the like.

Women's issues were high on the agenda of the decade of the 1970s as the international organizations turned their attention to the problems of third world women. In 1975, on the occasion of the proclamation of that year as the International Year of Women, the Dominican University Council established a commission under the title of University Committee of Women, whose immediate responsibility was the organization of the Mirabal Sisters' Seminar, at which an analysis was made of the instances of sexually motivated discrimination that continued to be encountered in the economic, political, legislative and educational sectors.

Despite the fact that it is a small country, the Dominican Republic participated actively in the International Conference of Mexico City, which launched the Women's Decade of the United Nations, as well as in the Copenhagen and Nairobi conferences. In addition, the Dominican Government offered the country's services as the host nation for the United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

The expression of concerns, the heightened awareness of women, and the struggle for the recognition of their rights, as expressed in accordance with the

age and its circumstances, began to bear fruit; co-ordinated management and joint efforts have laid the foundation for the path we have travelled towards the banishment of inequality from the political, economic, social and legal arenas.

It is, nevertheless, important to point out that the entire decade of the 1970s was a period of great significance for Dominican women. In 1974, Presidential Decree No. 475 proclaimed 1975 as the Year of Women under the slogan: Equality, Development and Peace. Guided by the United Nations World Plan of Action, the country conducted its first diagnostic survey on the status of women. This study was prepared by the University Committee of Women of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) and resulted in the holding of the Mirabal Sisters' Seminar in December 1975 in the city of Santo Domingo.

During that same year, under Presidential Decree No. 994 of 12 June 1975, the Centre for the Integration of Women in Development (CIFEPAD) was established. Considering that "the Dominican woman has contributed and is continuing to contribute to the creation of a new social order, but that it is necessary, for the acceleration of this process, that mechanisms be created to invigorate the development of which women are a vital part", the purpose of the Centre was to introduce new measures to bring about the full integration of women in the processes of development. The Centre was given the responsibility of implementing the policies set forth in the country's development plan for the years 1976-1978 with respect to the social dimension of development.

Within the framework of the Decade of Women and as a result of the studies prepared by the commission which was created in 1973 under Presidential Decree No. 3587 with the mandate of reviewing our legal codes and general legislation for the purpose of achieving legal equality for Dominican women in both the civil and political areas, the year 1978 saw the enactment of Law No. 855 of 22 July, which in addition to its other forward-looking provisions put an end to a number of discriminatory practices that particularly affected married women. More detailed comments on this law will be found in the discussion of the legal framework below.

In 1979, an evaluation was made of the experience of the three-year period 1975-1978, accompanied by the formulation of a medium-term plan for the Copenhagen Conference. A year later, in 1980, prior to the convening of the Conference, and to mark the end of the decade, the National Conference to Evaluate the Decade of Women was organized and provided a forum for an analysis of the achievements of women during the Decade along with a discussion of the obstacles encountered. Later, during the World Conference in Copenhagen, the Dominican Republic signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was ratified and came into force for the country in 1982.

The presentation below follows the suggestions of the document entitled "General Guidelines Regarding the Form and Content of the Reports received from States Parties under Article 18 of the Convention" (CEDAW/C/7).

I. General situation

A. General, social, economic, political and legal framework

1. General framework

The Dominican Republic, with its political system of representative democracy, covers an area of 48,442 km^2 and has a total population of 6,715,643 inhabitants, of whom some 55 per cent live in the urban zones and some 45 per cent in the rural areas. The number of women is estimated at 3,302,991 (49.2 per cent of the population). The gross per capita domestic product is approximately 502.00 Dominican pesos.

Although the country is a party to the human rights conventions that are relevant to women, we shall mention here only those which, like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified in 1982, pertain specifically to women and have been signed by the Dominican Republic. These are the "Inter-American Convention on the Concession of the Political Rights of Women" and the "Inter-American Convention on the Concession of the Civil Rights of Women", ratified by the Dominican Republic in 1949, and also Agreements Nos. 89,100 and 45 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning "Night Work by Women Employed in Industry", "Equality of Remuneration between Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value", and "Employment of Women in Underground Work in Mines of All Kinds", respectively. In addition, the Dominican Republic has ratified the "Convention on the Political Rights of Women", signed in New York on 31 March 1953, and the "Convention on the Nationality of Married Women" of 1957. In accordance with paragraph 2 of article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic, which states that the "Dominican Republic recognizes and applies the norms of general international and American law to the degree that its public authorities have adopted them ...", the conventions mentioned above are part of the country's internal system of laws. Accordingly, this embodiment of the international legal system within the provisions of the internal legislation of the Dominican Republic provides a reliable and explicit demonstration of the State's determination to respect the inherent rights of the human individual with no distinctions of any kind.

2. Social framework

Of the total population, some 46 per cent consists of married or cohabiting couples; 21.6 per cent of these households are headed by women. Estimates of the crude birth and death rates since the 1930s exhibit significant changes characterized by a rapid decline in mortality levels for the total population in the order of 60 per cent between 1950 and 1980, and a later decline in fertility, which, beginning in the 1960s, reduced the cumulative fertility of women from 7.5 to 4.5 children in 20 years.

Concubinage is the predominant nuptial model in the country. The proportion of women living in this form of cohabitation increases from 15 per cent for those between the ages of 15 and 19 years to 44.7 per cent for those of 30 to 34 years of age, declining thereafter for the 35-to-49-year age group. In any case, at 41.1 per cent, marriage is the predominant pattern after age 40. It is clear that as women enter their maturer years they tend to favour legal marriage over the consensual union.

With respect to international migration, the migratory flow estimates that have been made on the basis of visa applications indicate a negative migratory balance, i.e., a larger number of Dominicans, mainly males, leaving than entering the country, the figure being 80 women for every 100 migrant men during the period 1961-1980.

One of the most significant developments in the demographic evolution of the Dominican Republic has been the rapid urbanization of the population, one result of which was that between the years 1950 and 1981 the population distribution pattern changed from a rural to a predominantly urban one.

This internal migration is accounted for by a larger number of women moving from the countryside to the towns, a consequence of which is that women outnumber men in the urban zones and men are more numerous than women in the rural areas.

In the public education system, a comparison of the demographic population with the enrolment population in the system's pre-school, primary and secondary programmes reveals coverage factors of 7, 75 and 42.4 per cent for these

programmes, respectively. Analysis of enrolment at the primary and secondary levels indicates a higher proportion of girls, who in 1984 accounted for 59.9 and 54.7 per cent, respectively, of the total number of pupils registered. A far greater predominance of women is also found in technical vocational education, where during the same period women represented approximately three quarters of the total enrolment.

Statistical data indicate that there has been no break in the rising curve of female enrolment in higher education, with an increase of from 1.2 to 4.5 recorded in the ten-year period between 1971 and 1981. Recent information confirms the continuity of this trend, indicating that in 1985 55 per cent of the graduates from the State University were women, the figure for one private university being 65 per cent. It is likely that this trend towards larger numbers of women in higher education is continuing.

Nevertheless, these statistics do not apply equally to all categories of women. We must not forget that while they are certainly limiting the opportunities for advancement by women, the effects of the economic crisis - by no means limited to the Dominican Republic - have of necessity induced a large number of women to join the work-force as wage earners, with the result that in many cases the woman has had to become the head of the household and assume the burden of materially supporting her family, independently of what is regarded as her social obligation to raise the children.

3. Economic framework

As in other countries, there has emerged in the Dominican Republic, since the 1960s, a social movement of women that transcends the barriers of traditional behaviour under a call for greater participation in public life on an equal footing with men, especially in the labour sector. The economically active female population has increased considerably to the point where, at 68.7 per cent, its current level is higher than that of the economically active male population. This marked increase in the economic involvement of women is evidence of the changes that are occurring in the role of women in the work-force. Still, these data do not reflect the major contributions of women within the framework of the informal economy, consisting, for example, of the small home industries and subsistence-scale economic operations that are not considered in the system of accounts.

It must be recognized that, whatever the indicators selected, wages for men are higher, and that, as a general rule, women workers are found concentrated at the lowest levels of the income scale. In percentage terms this is reflected in the fact that women's wages range between 14.6 and 95 per cent of those of men. Now it is important to point out that the data on occupations and branches of activity from which these percentages have been derived include all categories, from engineers and doctors at one end to nurses and teachers (predominantly female) at the other, so that it is impossible to substantiate the hypothesis of wage discrimination in the strict sense, since the information suggests that this discrimination is the result of labour supply patterns and not of any legal provisions.

4. Political framework

It should be noted that Section II of the Constitution of the Republic, in referring to citizenship, states that "all Dominicans of either sex who have completed 18 years of age, and those who, although they have not reached this age, are or have been married, are citizens", and goes on to recognize the right of these citizens to vote and to be elected to public office. In this connection, there has for some time now been an increase in the number of women voters, the figure being approximately 98 women for every 100 men who cast a ballot.

With respect to the exercise by women of their right to be elected, one finds an inversely proportional relationship between the size of the party and the number of women candidates. Still, there is a substantial number of women in government, mainly in positions at the operational level that are without any formal decision-making authority.

5. Legal framework

The legal protections accorded to the rights of women in the Dominican Republic are extensive, ranging from the Constitution of the Republic to the conventions signed by the Government, which, as we have explained in the discussion of the general framework, are part of our internal legislation. In addition, the legislator has endeavoured to guarantee the recognition of the rights of women through numerous laws that have modified our previous legislation, in keeping with the evolution of society and in conformity with the responsibility of the State as an impartial arbiter, a responsibility that, as part of the prevailing ideology, finds expression in mechanisms, institutions and laws.

In this sense the Constitution of the Dominican Republic establishes the full civil capacity of married women as well as that of women over 18 years of age and of those who, although they have not yet reached their majority, are or have been married. Similarly, the Dominican Civil Code lays down the means for the protection of the property rights of married women under any system of marriage, specifying that the married woman has the same civil capacity as the single woman and that the system of marriage adopted by the spouses may not contain any limitation of the wife's civil capacity that is not expressly provided for in the law. This and other provisions are a product of the substantial modifications to the Civil Code that were introduced under Law No. 855 of 22 July 1978. This same law contains provisions regulating the equality of the man and woman in the m[illegible] and material guidance of the family, their mutual obligations, and the need for their mutual agreement in selecting their place of residence, as well as their individual capacity for the acquisition, administration, enjoyment or disposition of their personal property, subject to the exceptions dictated by logic. In addition, the law establishes the woman's right to exercise a profession without the consent of her husband, along with her full entitlement to administer and dispose of the proceeds of her work. Similarly provided for is the woman's capacity to figure as a witness in formal and/or official documents under the same conditions and subject to the same restrictions and prohibitions as the man. Of particular importance is the modification introduced under this law to the authority of the father and mother with regard to the protection of their children, in that it confers on both of them the right and duty to watch over, supervise and educate their offspring.

Nevertheless, while it is true that the changes enacted in 1978 are substantial and of the greatest importance, it is no less true that we are duty-bound to acknowledge the continued existence of provisions that must be amended, such as those that refer to the place of residence (the legal domicile) of the married woman, which is currently the place of residence of her husband. Along these same lines, one may well question the effectiveness of legal statutes in overcoming long-standing traditional stereotypes and problems rooted in socio-economic causes. Just how effective these laws have been will have to be judged on the basis of the results they produce.

B. Any legal and other measures adopted to implement the Convention or their absence, as well as any effects which ratification of the Convention has had on the State party's general, social, economic, political and legal framework since the entry into force of the Convention for the reporting State

The Dominican Republic signed the Convention on 17 July 1980, during the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, and the instrument of ratification was deposited on 1 September 1982 with no reservations. Accordingly, it was 30 days after that date that the Convention came into force for the country.

Period subsequent to the entry into force of the Convention

Following the entry into force of the Convention, the considerable achievements of the preceding periods were built upon by the country's women's movement to strengthen and intensify a wide range of activities.

Decree No. 46 of 17 August 1982 established the Department for the Advancement of Women, which was charged with the task of planning specific projects in pursuit of its objectives. This Department has been guided in its work by the principles laid down in the United Nations in its World Plans of Action (1975), the regional programmes of action (1979) for the integration of women in the economic and social development of Latin America, the United Nations World Plans of Action (1980) and the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1985).

The Department's objectives include the promotion of full equality between the sexes through the elimination of all forms of discrimination in the political, social and economic structures of the country resulting from age-old prejudices in our culture, whether latent or overt. In addition, the Department undertakes activities designed to ensure the observance in practice of the principle of equality between men and women, as asserted in our Constitution.

The year 1985 was of great importance in gauging the achievements of Dominican women in their ongoing campaign to eliminate all forms of discrimination in their regard. A number of laws were enacted that merit individual comment.

1. Decree No. 3012 of 29 May 1985. In the interest of co-ordinating and unifying the work carried out by the public and private institutions engaged in programmes on behalf of women, and for the purpose of achieving better results from the human and material resources employed in the execution of these programmes, the Consultative Council of the Department for the Advancement of Women was established as an advisory body formed by four institutions with a direct impact in areas of vital importance: production, education, health and planning.

2. Decree No. 3013 of 29 May 1985. In recognition of the work of Dominican women and their important role in different areas of social endeavour, and as a reward for their efforts on behalf of the community, the Woman's Medal of Merit was created and has since then been awarded on 8 March of each year on the occasion of International Women's Day.

3. Decree No. 3014 of 29 May 1985. For the purpose of ensuring women the opportunity to participate fully in the social, political and economic life of the Republic, and recognizing that the evolution in the role of women has enabled them to contribute to the progress of the nation on a basis of parity with men, the Government decided to revise those legal provisions that were abetting discrimination or impeding the comprehensive development of women, and to this end appointed a commission charged with studying the laws currently in force. In so doing, the Government acted in compliance with the commitments undertaken by the Dominican State in acceding to the Convention.

As a result of the study carried out by this commission, our country is extremely pleased to report on the completed preparation of a "Draft Reform of the Decree on the Family and Women", which contains extensive modifications in the following areas: civil law, civil procedure, commercial law, labour law, penal law and agrarian legislation. In preparing this document, consideration was given to the conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the seminar on "Women and Legal Equality for Urban and Rural Development", organized by the Department for the Advancement of Women in September 1984. Account was also taken of the most recent legislative reforms in France and of the most advanced sociological thinking with regard to women's issues, subject to the necessary adjustments for the cultural, moral and social values uniquely specific to the Dominican context. The draft is based on the realization that women can progress and advance only in concert with men, and on an effort to keep the document free of overstated feminist standpoints.

C. Institutions or authorities that have as their task to ensure that the principle of equality between men and women is complied with in practice, and remedies available to women who have suffered discrimination

1. At the governmental level there are two institutions, previously mentioned, that deal specifically with women's affairs: the Department for the Advancement of Women and its Consultative Council. Although the functions of these institutions have not yet been regulated in detail, this does not mean that they have been ineffective. While their main purpose is to guide and promote, they also exist to monitor the observance of the rights already granted. In addition to these two, there are some 17 other public agencies that operate in their specific areas of competence and that include the Ministry of Education, Fine Arts and Religious Affairs; the Dominican Social Security Institute; the National Population and Family Council; the Dominican Agrarian Institute; the Central Electoral Board; the National Planning Office; the Ministry of Labour; the Community Development Office; and others.

2. It should be noted that there are a great many non-governmental organizations that are interested in the advancement and development of women and, as a consequence, are concerned with ensuring the principle of equality of and respect for women's rights. These institutions are performing valuable work in co-ordination with the State authorities in a number of areas. Among them, mention should be made in particular of the following: Women in Development (MUDE), Women in Industry (MAI), the National Council of Women (CNM), the Dominican Association for Family Welfare (PROFAMILIA), the Research Centre for Women's Action (CIPAF), the Young Women's Guidance Association, the Association of Voting Mothers, the Association of Executive and Affiliated Professional Women, the National Association of Women Lawyers, the Women's Bank, etc. In addition to the above, there are women's groups within the professional societies.

3. The civil and political equality enjoyed by women under both the Constitution of the Republic and the laws of the nation ensure them access to the courts, i.e., to the administration of justice, where they can secure their rights in any area in which they may wish to bring suit or raise a claim. In summary, while it is the executive authority that through its institutions upholds the observance of the principles anchored in the Constitution and the laws, it is to the judiciary, all of whose doors are open to women in cases of discrimination, that recourse may be had whenever these principles have been violated.

D. Means of promotion and development

The Department for the Advancement of Women numbers among its functions the planning and implementation of specific projects to permit the involvement of women in the socio-economic process. Further, the Department co-ordinates the work of

institutions engaged in carrying out programmes on behalf of women, provides a channel for all assistance received from national and international agencies for the cause of women's development, and advises the President of the Republic on the design and adoption of policies promoting the integration of women in the development process.

To this end, seminars are held, workshops are organized, projects are implemented and other activities are undertaken, the positive results of which may be seen in the advancing professionalization of women and in their increasing participation in public and private endeavours, and also in their greater involvement in creative artistic and craft activities, as well as in the heightened attention being paid to disadvantaged areas in community work programmes. Perhaps the most important success has been in the deepening and sharpening of women's awareness of their own problems as reflected in their more active participation in political and social movements of all kinds.

To cite a significant example of the steps being taken to protect female labour and encourage the work of women in agro-industry and the crafts sector, a series of measures have been introduced to ban the import of ready-to-wear clothing and other products.

A few words should also be said about a number of seminars that have been held and which, because of their effects and consequences, deserve particular mention. These include the Workshop Seminar "Indicators of the Social Situation of Dominican Women", the National Seminar on Population and Society, the Seminar for the Raising of the Consciousness of Female Youth, the Seminar "Women and Legal Equality for Urban and Rural Development", and the Workshop Conference "The Rural Woman Today and Tomorrow". We should also like to note the existence of an extensive bibliography on women's issues that is available at the documentation centres of a number of the private agencies already mentioned, along with case studies on the integration of women in development.

E. Invocation of the provisions of the Convention

As we noted above, the Constitution of the Republic states, in article 3, that the "Dominican Republic recognizes and applies the norms of general international and American law to the degree that its public authorities have adopted them ...". The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was ratified by the National Congress in Resolution No. 582 of 25 June 1982 and published in the Official Gazette, No. 9588 of 30 June 1982, thus meeting the above-mentioned constitutional requirement. In this way, the provisions of the Convention have become a part of the country's internal system of laws and are binding in accordance with article 42 of the Constitution, which states that "the laws, following their publication, are mandatory for all the inhabitants of the Republic, provided the legal period after which they may be presumed known has elapsed".

In addition, article 8 of the Constitution contains the following statement: "The principal objective of the State is recognized as consisting in the effective protection of the rights of the human person and in the maintenance of the means enabling him or her to achieve gradual self-improvement within a system of individual freedom and social justice compatible with public order, general well-being and the rights of all". In this sense, the judiciary exists to make it possible for citizens to claim the rights guaranteed them by the State, and it is before the courts that such claims are aired. As a consequence, since they have become part of the internal system of laws as a result of their adoption by the public authorities, the provisions of the Convention may be invoked before the courts of the Republic.

2. Information in relation to the provisions of the Convention

Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4. Adoption of legislative and other measures

Given that these articles are of a similar character, we shall confine ourselves to a general comment regarding them.

Although it is true that the Constitution of the Republic does not provide explicitly for the equality of men and women, it is no less a fact that neither does it distinguish between them. On the contrary, in speaking of the rights of citizens, the Constitution refers to "all Dominicans of either sex", and within the general framework of its provisions it does not confer rights on men or women, but refers instead to "all persons". Nevertheless, there are constitutional provisions regarding nationality that may be regarded as discriminatory and they will be commented on below.

With respect to the special codes and laws, the amendments approved in 1978 to the Civil Code regarding the civil capacity of women, which we have discussed under point A (5) on the legal framework, represented a major step forward in our legislation towards the recognition of women's rights.

Conscious of the need for the involvement of the State in the adoption of suitable measures and relevant legal amendments to the Civil, Labour and Penal Codes, agrarian laws, etc., and as a direct and positive result of the Seminar on "Women and Legal Equality for Urban and Rural Development", organized by the Department for the Advancement of Women in 1984, a commission was established under Presidential Decree No. 3014 of 29 May 1985 to study those provisions of Dominican legislation whose application was discriminatory against women or impeded their comprehensive development, with the further purpose of formulating and proposing such draft legislation as might be helpful.

The study that was prepared by this commission, and which is noteworthy for its depth and careful scrutiny of all those legislative aspects that negatively affect the status of women and are a source of discrimination, resulted in the draft law which we have already mentioned and which eliminates all these discriminatory provisions wherever they apply - in the civil, commercial, labour, penal or agrarian areas. The guidelines adopted for the preparation of this draft law were those laid down in the Convention.

The proposals advanced in the civil area include, inter alia, the following:

(a) The abolition of the universal joint estate as the common-law system of marriage and its replacement by a system of community property limited to the goods accumulated during the marriage, with joint administration by the spouses;

(b) The free administration and disposition by the spouses of their own goods;

(c) The abolition of the dowry;

(d) The recognition of the surviving spouse's successional capacity as a regular heir;

(e) The elimination of the principle of the immutability of marriage arrangements;

(f) The modification of the system of natural adoption, together with the elimination of differences in respect of inheritance by legitimate and recognized natural children;

(g) The establishment of a legal statute for de facto or consensual unions;

(h) Consideration of an allowance to indemnify the wife, in the event of divorce, when her sole and exclusive activity has been the care of her husband and children.

The intention is, through these modifications, to reform the Code of Civil Proceedings so as to make it possible for citizens to assert before the courts the rights that have already been granted them.

In the labour area it is proposed to annul the principle according to which "women may not engage in work inappropriate to their sex" on the grounds that this principle is discriminatory against and disadvantageous to women. Similarly, all those provisions of the Labour Code are to be repealed which are aimed at establishing distinctions as between men and women with respect to conditions of work, the purpose being to eliminate paternalism and permit the all-round and complete development of women. Another important measure will be the introduction of regulations to govern domestic workers, who are not currently protected under the Labour Code and for whom flexible rules are under consideration.

In the legal area:

(a) Adultery is no longer to be regarded as a punishable crime and has been eliminated as grounds for divorce;

(b) A new definition has been proposed for rape and/or carnal knowledge through seduction, and the discriminatory classifications are to be eliminated;

(c) More severe penalties have been proposed for the offence of incitement to prostitution;

(d) The situations in which abortion is to be depenalized are to be specified.

With respect to the agrarian laws, it is proposed to establish as the beneficiary the "family unit", with the latter understood as consisting of the father and mother, or one of them, and their (his or her) children.

Transitional provisions have been drawn up for the proposed new legislative reforms so as to make it possible to adapt, understand and apply them more effectively.

This draft law has been submitted to the Congress of the Republic for its advice and consent. We have full confidence that our lawmakers will give proper consideration to the urgent need to harmonize our legislation with the new requirements facing society, taking into account the role of women in all areas in the political, social and economic life of the country.

We consider it of interest to point out that this draft law was the object of discussion and study at the Workshop Seminar on the "Reform of the Law on the Family, Women and Minors", organized by Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University (UNPHU) under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

With regard to paragraph 2 of article 4, we might note that subparagraph (a) of paragraph 15 of article 8 of the Constitution of the Republic stipulates that "maternity, whatever the condition or status of the woman, shall enjoy the protection of the public authorities and shall be entitled to official assistance in the event of the mother's abandonment". In addition, returning to the labour

area, article 211 of the Labour Code, as amended by Law No. 6069 of 1962, makes it unlawful to dismiss a woman from her position of employment for the reason that she is pregnant, and stipulates that pregnant women may not be called upon to perform work requiring a physical effort incompatible with their physical condition.

Article 5. Socio-cultural area

(a) Education is an essential element in the reordering of the economic, moral, cultural and political power relationships embedded in society and, accordingly, a dynamic activity which, while always pursuing the same principal functions, through its content exerts a major impact in different societies and in different periods. Education is, therefore, a variable concept involving a process whose substance and form change and through which individuals achieve socialization through the assimilation of new values, ideas, habits, beliefs and social standards.

Guided by this view, the Dominican State, which is required under the Constitution of the Republic to make available free educational services to the entire population without distinction as to sex, has taken upon itself the task, through the Ministry of Education, Fine Arts and Religious Affairs (SEEBAC), of modifying transmitted sexist patterns through public education programmes at different levels, namely, pre-school, primary, secondary, technical vocational, and adult education. Higher public education is provided by the State university, in addition to which there also exist numerous private institutions of higher learning.

Public education is mixed and recognizes no differences between boys and girls or men and women. An exception to this principle may be found at the technicals vocational level, where women are trained in "typically female" subjects, such as the humanities, nursing, the retail trade, home economics, hairdressing and beauty care, fabric cutting and garmentmaking, the florist's trade and other manual arts, while mainly men are enrolled in the courses in mechanics, carpentry and cabinetmaking, masonry, electricity and others of similar kind. However, there has been a significant increase in the training of women at the general level, with girls outnumbering boys in primary and secondary education, where in 1984, for example, they accounted for 50.9 and 54.7 per cent of the total enrolment, respectively. This predominance of women is far more conspicuous at the technical vocational level, where they represent some three quarters of the total number of students.

Other governmental institutions have joined the Ministry of Education in a desire to provide training for women as a key to the elimination of discriminatory practices and to the arousal in women themselves of an awareness of their status of equality. Among these institutions, particular mention might be made of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Dominican Agrarian Institute, the Office of Community Development, the Institute of Co-operative Development and Credit, the vocational training schools of the armed forces, and the Institute of Technical Vocational Training (during the period 1983-1985 this last-named institution had at its disposal an annual budget of from 5 million to 6 million Dominican pesos).

The results of this training have been satisfactory in that, despite the continued predominance of "typically feminine" occupations, women are making inroads into areas traditionally regarded as masculine, such as agricultural and livestock production, typesetting and graphics, electricity, refrigeration and supervision, while in the management area they are participating in seminars on the establishment and administration of mini-scale enterprises.

At the level of higher education, the statistics reveal that the proportions have shifted from a male predominance of 59.7 per cent in 1980 first to a situation of equilibrium and later to a predominance of women, who accounted for 54.5 per cent of the total enrolment in 1984 and who continue to outnumber men at

this time. Some segregation still exists in the courses selected by men and women, but this is to be attributed to cultural factors and not to legal limitations or restrictions on the access of women to specific programmes. Moreover, this segregation is gradually disappearing.

An area in which there has been a marked change in previously existing patterns is the agricultural sector, where some 5,000 women parcel owners have undertaken the working of their property. This is a de facto situation that has not yet been covered under protective legal statutes, but for which there is provision in the draft law discussed above. This involvement of women is in response to the change in socio-cultural patterns and customary practices that has resulted from the efforts of the Dominican Agrarian Institute through its Women's Promotion Unit, whose objectives are to encourage the integration of women, as indirect beneficiaries of the agrarian reform programme, in productive activities in the agricultural and crafts sector. The Unit also works to promote the involvement of women in production projects through its support and guidance in the search for the financing required for the implementation of these projects, since the Unit has no funds of its own for this purpose. Training activities are provided at 24 Agrarian Reform Training Centres for Women (CEFOMURA) scattered throughout the country. These participatory activities by women in the agricultural area, while they are not an outgrowth of the law, represent a de facto situation and an advance, fully assimilated by our society, in the establishment of equality for men and women in the labour arena.

It is important to note the existence of schools which, using radio to offer correspondence courses, cover most of the national territory and broadcast programmes in literacy training and primary studies.

(b) While it is true that the legal instruments in our country assert the joint responsibility of both spouses in "the moral and material direction of the family, the education of the children and their preparation for the future" (article 213 of the Civil Code as amended by Law No. 855 of 1978), it is no less true that surveys that have been carried out indicate that both the textbooks as well as the primary and secondary school teachers, through their classroom activities, tend to assign different social roles to men and women, thus complicating the future integration of their students into all areas of society on terms of equality. What is more, the institutions offering technical education slant their courses for women towards trades regarded as appropriate to that sex, while the same thing happens at the training centres in the case of so-called "male" occupations.

Nevertheless, there is no denying that the new working guidelines and the projects implemented by governmental and non-governmental organizations following the proclamation of the Decade for Women have guided and encouraged women to enter a whole range of production-related activities formally regarded as exclusively the province of men. Still, there is no official policy to formulate and co-ordinate the objectives of these working guidelines or to ensure their implementation, which as a result has been limited.

Aware of the fact that the stereotyped content of the textbooks used in primary and secondary education, as well as the sexist attitudes of the teachers, both male and female, towards their pupils of either sex, are not offering these students social models capable of promoting the development of their human potential on a basis of equality, the Dominican Republic is directing its attention towards a reorientation of public and private education in harmony with the provisions of the Convention and in accordance with the evolving demands that flow from the equality of rights. In addition, consideration is being given to the introduction, at private universities and with the collaboration of the United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), of a programme of advanced studies on women and development.

Article 6. Exploitation of women

The legislation in effect punishes the traffic in women and the exploitation of the prostitution of women under provisions contained in the Penal Code of the Republic. However, in view of the fact that the sanctions stipulated in the Code are very mild in relation to the crime, the draft law that has been submitted to the National Congress provides for greater severity in the penalties for incitement to prostitution and the corruption of minors.

It is important to note that in the Dominican Republic most young women who engage in prostitution do so because of economic difficulties of the kind that must be overcome through the development process.

Article 7 (a), (b) and (c) and article 8. Political and public rights

Regarding this point, we refer to what has already been said under point A (4) on the political framework. The Dominican Republic has established constitutional guarantees covering the equality of rights of men and women with respect to their eligibility to vote and to be elected to the various offices in the political governance of the country. However, although there are no legal provisions to impede the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in national or international public life, political realities tend to limit their opportunities.

Enlarging on this point, we might note that at present women can be found holding middle-management posts, such as advisers, department directors and heads of divisions and sections, but that, on the average, there are only 45 women for every 100 men in these positions. On the other hand, the majority of high-level managerial posts are held by men. At present, there are 12 women provincial governors. In addition, 10 women hold the rank of ambassador, both in the Foreign Service and within the category of chancellery personnel.

Article 9. Rights in regard to nationality

The Dominican Republic is a party to the 1957 Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, which came into force for the country on 11 August 1958. As such, it applies in principle the provisions of that Convention. Further, the Constitution of the Republic, in article 11, paragraph 1, recognizes the right of all Dominicans, without distinction as to sex, to acquire foreign nationality. With regard to Dominican women married to foreigners, the Constitution states that they "may" acquire the nationality of their husband. A proper interpretation of the word "may" clearly points to a voluntary decision on the part of the woman. Further, article 19 of the Civil Code stipulates that "a Dominican woman who enters into marriage with a foreigner and who 'desires' to acquire the nationality of her husband, provided the laws of the latter's country so permit, shall expressly declare her intention, noting it in the certificate of marriage. If after the marriage has taken place she desires to acquire her husband's nationality, she must do this through naturalization". In this way, the Dominican woman is completely autonomous in deciding on her nationality in the event she marries a foreigner, and is not affected by any change in the latter's nationality.

Regarding the nationality of the children, and in view of the joint authority of the father and mother, we can speak of a situation of equality, as may be seen in the analysis of three different sets of circumstances:

(a) During the marriage the father and the mother exercise their authority jointly and, as a consequence, enjoy equal rights;

(b) In the case of divorce, authority is exercised by the party to whom the court has entrusted custody of the children, whether this party be the father or the mother;

(c) In the case of a natural child born out of wedlock, and whether or not it is recognized by the father, the authority is exercised by the mother, except where there is a court ruling to the contrary.

Thus, in principle, the man and woman have the same rights with regard to the children, since they exercise authority as the situation dictates. The acquisition of foreign nationality by the father or the mother has no effect on the nationality of the children, in accordance with our constitutional principles. On the contrary, the Constitution establishes, in article 11, section 3, the right of persons, of either sex, born abroad of a Dominican father or mother, to acquire Dominican nationality.

On the other hand, it is possible to point to two provisions that may be regarded as discriminatory against women. The first refers to the acquisition, as a matter of right, of Dominican nationality by a foreign woman who contracts matrimony with a Dominican man, unless the laws of her country permit her to retain her nationality. This provision, which is contained in article 11, section 4, paragraph III, of the Constitution of the Republic, might be regarded as discriminatory, since the man can, as a matter of right, confer his nationality on his wife, whereas this same privilege is not available to a foreign man marrying a Dominican woman, the effect of which is to limit the woman's capacity, in comparison with the man's, to confer on her husband the benefits of her nationality. In other words, the Dominican man has the capacity, as a matter of law, to confer on his foreign wife the benefits of his nationality, whereas the Dominican woman has no such capacity, so that her foreign husband must comply with the naturalization procedure if he wishes to acquire Dominican nationality.

The second provision is found in Naturalization Law No. 1683 of 16 April 1948, which, in article 4, states that "unmarried children of less than 18 years of age, whether they are legitimate, have been legitimated or are recognized natural children, acquire as a matter of law Dominican nationality through the naturalization of their father". In another paragraph of the same article one reads that "the same effects are produced by the naturalization of the mother when there is no father or, if there is a father, when the mother has custody of the children". In this way, the father is given priority in respect of the effects produced by his acquisition of Dominican nationality, while the mother is left disadvantaged in respect of the same effects. This is in total contradiction to the provisions of Law No. 855 of 1978, referred to above, which establishes the shared authority of the father and the mother with respect to the children, the reason being that at the time the Naturalization Law was enacted, paternal authority rested with the father. As a consequence, this provision will have to be modified in order to bring it into harmony with the principles of equality that currently prevail.

Article 10. Educational area

With respect to education, and approaching this article from a general point of view, we should like to refer to what has already been said in the analysis of article 5. The remarks made in that context may be amplified by noting that the segregation that exists in the educational courses pursued by men and women is a result of cultural factors and not of any legal restrictions or limitations on the access of women to specific programmes of study. These cultural and ideological influences in public behaviour have undergone changes, so that since 1978 advances have been achieved that, albeit still unevenly, extend to all educational levels in what has been not a specific response to official policies, but rather an outgrowth of the evolving economic and ideological situation.

The positive trend towards female literacy became clear in 1981 when it was found that for every 100 literate men there were 99.6 literate women. As a general proposition, the number of women who can read and write has equalled and even overtaken the number of men.

At the primary level of education, in 1983 there were 95 girls for every 100 boys enrolled in the official schools; in the secondary schools, the figures were 116 girls for every 100 boys. It is believed that a combination of socio-economic factors have conspired to bring about this situation and that two circumstances may be converging: (1) The dropout rate for boys at the transitional stage between primary and secondary education has decreased owing to the need for more schooling as a requirement for entering the labour market under more favourable conditions; and (2) the dropout rate for girls moving on to secondary education has increased because of their early entrance into the labour market. In other words, while the primary level is still predominantly male and the secondary predominantly female, this situation is tending to reverse itself: the disparity in the male-female ratio is increasing at the primary level and moderating at the secondary.

On the question of access to higher education, in 1981 the figure was 73,060 women for 85,365 men, which points to a quickening in the growth rate of female enrolment. All the available information indicates that this trend is continuing and that the number of women who are in higher education or have had access to it at some level is probably greater than that of men.

In summary, there are no sexually motivated differences in the educational system of the Dominican Republic. At 54.2 per cent, the proportion of women who complete the educational cycles is greater than that of men. What possible discrimination may exist is not the product of legal prescriptions but of cultural factors, in which connection there is a need to revise the textbooks used in primary education with a view to eliminating all stereotyped male and female role models. This is a situation of which the Dominican State, as the country's guiding force, is well aware and which it is endeavouring to improve. It is clear, in this connection, that the Organic Education Law No. 2909 of 1951, which regulates both public and private education, must be revised and modified in its pertinent aspects and that its guidelines must be redrawn so as to be brought into harmony with the current social, economic and cultural situation.

Article 11. Labour area

1. It is regrettable to have to recognize that Dominican labour legislation is discriminatory in its treatment and recognition of the labour capacity of women, and that while it imposes no restrictions on the right to work, opportunities for employment, the free selection of an occupation or trade, remuneration, contractual considerations, equality of treatment, etc., it does contain a number of paternalistic provisions that limit the participation of women in the labour market. It is necessary, however, to point out that the modifications proposed in the draft law that has been submitted to the National Congress include the elimination of these provisions in keeping with the view that, apart from the special case of the working mother, in which the woman requires the protection and care both of her family and of society, working women must be treated on equal terms with men.

The intention is to modify the following provisions of the Labour Code currently in force:

Principle VII. "Women may not engage in work that is not appropriate to their sex". This paternalistic provision contains elements of discrimination, as is evident from the fact that while article 209 of Chapter I of the Code, entitled "On

the Work of Women", states that "with respect to the labour laws, women enjoy the same rights and have the same duties as men, with no exceptions other than those established in the present chapter", the following article (210) specifies that "any woman applying for work at an enterprise of any kind shall demonstrate her physical aptitude for the performance of the task in question by presenting a medical certificate issued free of charge by a physician employed by the State, the National District or a municipality". This condition is not required of men. Another paternalistic or overly protective provision is contained in article 217, which prohibits "the employment of women in underground work or work posing a danger to their life or health", leaving it up to the Ministry of Labour to determine exactly what jobs fall under this ban.

It is necessary to note that, despite the presence of these constraining or protectionist legal norms, they have not been observed in the practical evolution of the labour market. The economically active female population has considerably increased over recent decades to the point that in 1985 there were 46.4 women workers for every 100 men, with female labour continuing to penetrate into areas of activity traditionally dominated by men.

A special comment is in order here regarding the domestic service, which is the branch employing the largest number of women in the country; it accounts for nearly one fourth of the total number of economically active women. These women, most of them young and from rural areas, work in private homes and receive an average wage below the legally established minimum ($RD 250), as justified by the 50 per cent paid in kind and corresponding to the value of their room and board. Under the Labour Code these women are ineligible for any work-related or social benefits.

For all of these reasons, the commission that prepared the draft law so often referred to in the course of this report revised and proposed substantial and pivotal amendments in the labour area that would banish all elements of protectionism towards women from the Labour Code, establish conditions of equality between men and women, and include in the Code regulations governing domestic workers.

In addition to the above, mention should also be made of the production-oriented efforts that the State is undertaking through public institutions of the centralized and decentralized sectors and that are of direct benefit to women. These programmes offer financing, training, technical assistance and informal educational services to women organized around agricultural and craft production projects designed to generate income. Particular mention in this connection should be made of the work of the Community Development Office (ODC), which originally concentrated its efforts on the involvement of women in tasks intended to improve their role as housewives, but which, following the taking up of the cause of women's rights by the United Nations, developed a new organizational policy aimed at promoting the integration of women in collective income-generating production projects, with particular emphasis on the federation and confederation of women's groups at the regional and national levels. In addition, this institution operates a family education unit whose purpose is to encouarge the development and strengthening of women's basis organizations and Mothers' Centres, to which it makes available family counselling services, courses in home economics, sewing and manual skills in general, and loans for the establishment of mini-scale horticultural, cattle-raising and craft enterprises.

2. In this section the primary emphasis will be on the presentation of the relevant legislation in effect.

Constitution of the Republic, article 8, section 15, paragraph (a)

"Maternity, whatever the condition or status of the woman, shall enjoy the protection of the public authorities and shall be entitled to official assistance in the event of the mother's abandonment."

Labour Code, Chapter I

Article 211. "A woman may not be dismissed from her position of employment for the reason that she is pregnant. During the period of her pregnancy a woman may not be required to perform work requiring a physical effort incompatible with her condition of pregnancy."

Article 212. "If as a consequence of pregnancy or childbirth the work performed by a woman is harmful to her health, and if this fact is substantiated in a certificate issued by a physician, her employer is required to assist her in changing her job."

Law No. 4471 of 1956, article 144

"The Ministry of Public Health shall develop and co-ordinate, through health-related activities, social welfare, and preventive and curative medical care, all aspects of those functions and obligations that make it possible to ensure the well-being and good health of all women during their pre- and post-natal periods, as well as the normal growth and development of their children."

Law No. 4099 of 15 April 1955 on Pre- and Post-Natal Leave

Article 1. "All female employees or workers of the State or of its institutions and autonomous agencies, of the Municipal Government of the National District or of the other municipal governments, as well as of any person, enterprise or private entity, shall enjoy, in the event they become pregnant, mandatory leave during the six weeks preceding the likely date of the birth and the six weeks following it."

Article 2. "This pre- and post-natal leave shall not be of less than 12 weeks' duration in total and shall be remunerated in the same way as the woman's regular employment. During the leave the woman employee or worker shall retain her position with all the rights that flow therefrom."

We may note that the legislation in this area is satisfactory. Nevertheless, revisions have been made and amendments proposed in the draft law submitted to the National Congress, providing for greater benefits for the woman and strengthening the sanctions applicable against an employer who violates the legal provisions.

Moreover, it is important to mention the work being carried out by the National Council on Population and the Family (CONAPOFA), a decentralized institution subordinate to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare. The Council is implementing a family planning programme that is tied in with the mother and child care services of the parent ministry and that offers women of from 15 to 49 years of age throughout the country contraceptive methods free of charge. In the area of maternal health care, the Council provides services in genital cancer detection, sexual hygiene, information on the physiology of reproduction, and in the diagnosis and treatment of sterility and genital disorders. As an example of CONAPOFA's family planning efforts, we might mention the 260,000 women (representing 17.8 per cent of the total) who benefited from the programme in 1985.

Article 12. Health area

1. In principle, women experience no discrimination in the Dominican Republic with regard to medical care inasmuch as Law No. 4471 of 1956, which regulates the State's responsibilities in the public health area, makes no distinction between men and women with regard to medical services. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, the leading institution in this field, administers more than 60 per cent of the annual health budget, and the population for which it is responsible includes 80 per cent of the country's inhabitants. This Ministry operates a series of services of direct and indirect benefit to women, such as the mother and child care programmes, the nutritional monitoring programmes and the programmes for the promotion of breast-feeding.

Other institutions involved in the provision of health and social security services to the wage-earning public are the Dominican Social Security Institute (IDSS) and the Social Security Institute of the Armed Forces and National Police (ISSFAPOL).

Whatever deficiencies these services may be said to suffer from are attributable to the economic situation of the country, but certainly not to any form of discrimination against women.

2. We refer to what has been said in development of article 11, paragraph 2, with respect to CONAPOFA, and also to the preceding section. Regarding the programmes of mother and child care and nutritional monitoring, we might, in addition to the information already provided, further note that the mother and child care programme is regarded as essential to the success of the official health policy through its provision of assistance to mothers during pregnancy, at the time of birth and thereafter, and of paediatric care for newborn babies, nursing infants, and pre-school and school-age children. The nutritional monitoring programme is a subprogramme designed to complement the mother and child care programme and to provide a nutritional supplement to pregnant and lactating women and to undernourished children through the educational and nutritional recovery centres. We should again like to point out that whatever deficiencies may be said to exist in the health services are a consequence of the country's economic situation, which is preventing the Government from satisfying the public's requirements in this area as completely as it would like. At the same time, we wish to make it clear that the Dominican State is making every effort to ensure the more thorough and effective satisfaction of these needs.

Article 13. Economic and social area

There are in the legislation or statutes of the Dominican Republic no provisions that discriminate against women as to their right to obtain bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, since the laws that govern this area only require legal capacity in de jure transactions. Since the entry into force of the Convention, efforts have been made, under a project that was initiated by the Women's Bank and in which other institutions are co-operating, to introduce unsecured bank loans. With regard to the right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life, the situation is the same for men and women, the latter being subject to no legal restrictions or limitations of any kind.

Article 14. Rural women

It is the rural woman who has benefited most from the Government's production-oriented programmes, which we shall discuss below.

(a) The Ministry of Agriculture has a Women's Unit attached to the Division of Rural Organization of the Department of Extension under the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Extension, Training and Research. This Unit, which receives funds acquired through external financing and intended for the implementation of activities, is carrying out a pilot training programme for rural women, whose purpose is to promote the broader participation of women in the rural economy through their involvement in collective agricultural production projects managed by the women themselves. To this end, it makes available interest-free loans, training, technical assistance, free land and production marketing facilities to 15 associations that bring together some 450 women engaged in projects to raise rabbits, poultry, sheep and pigs, as well as in horticultural and other agricultural crop projects in the northern, southern and eastern regions of the country.

(b) The Dominican Agrarian Institute has a Women's Promotion Unit in the Division of Organization and Social Promotion of the Department of Social Development, whose objectives are to promote the training of the women who are the indirect beneficiaries of the agrarian reform and to further their involvement in agricultural, stock-raising and craft-related production activities. The work of this Institute was touched upon in the discussion of article 5, paragraph (a).

(c) The Agricultural Bank, a decentralized institution whose purpose is to provide credit facilities for the promotion of national agricultural production, has made available loans to an estimated 9.6 per cent of the women engaged in the farming of parcels in the rice-growing sector.

(d) The Institute of Co-operative Development and Credit promotes the establishment and strengthening of agricultural, fishing, service and other production co-operatives through programmes of education, technical training and financing. It has lent its support to some eight women's co-operatives comprising approximately 2,000 members. It offers services to a total of 512 co-operatives, 37 per cent of whose members are women.

(e) The Community Development Office, whose work was discussed in connection with article 11, paragraph 1.

Further to the above, we might also note that the proposed amendments to the agrarian laws, contained in the draft law that has been submitted to the National Congress, are aimed at integrating women in the country's development process and recognize the important work being performed by rural women.

On the question of access to medical services, there has been a more than 200-per-cent increase in the number of rural clinics. This has taken place under a plan for the construction of these facilities that began in 1966, primarily with external financial assistance.

Article 15. Civil rights

Dominican legislation confers equal civil and legal capacity on men and women, an exception being the case of the married woman, whose capacity is restricted under the system of marriage, but here too on equal terms with her husband. We might note that both the Constitution of the Republic as well as the 1978 amendments to the Civil Code on the civil capacity of women provide for the following:

(a) Constitution of the Republic, article 8, section 15, paragraph (d)

"Married women shall enjoy full civil capacity. The law shall establish the means necessary to protect the property rights of married women, under any system."

(b) Civil Code

Article 213 (as amended by Law No. 855 of 1978). "Married women have the same civil capacity as single women. The marriage system adopted by the spouses may contain no restriction on the civil capacity of the wife that is not expressly provided for under the law."

Article 215. "The spouses mutually commit themselves to a life community."

It follows from the above that, as Dominican citizens, both the woman and the man are entitled to the full enjoyment of their civil rights, with no distinction on the basis of sex (article 8 of the Civil Code). As a consequence, they both have the capacity to acquire and administer goods as well as the right to equal treatment in legal proceedings. In the same context, any contract that contains provisions contrary to and/or prohibited by the law and detrimental to public order or good behaviour is regarded as illicit. Accordingly, any contract that limits a woman's legal capacity as recognized under the positive law may be challenged.

It is well known that Dominican legislation, while providing that the family residence must be selected through mutual agreement, also holds that a married woman's domicile is that of her husband. This provision has been amended in the treatment of the domicile of the married woman in the draft law submitted to the Congress.

Despite these observations, Dominican women have not fallen behind in claiming their rights, and as a consequence the draft law submitted to the National Congress contains amendments to the statutes in force, amendments that have been noted in the comments offered above regarding the first four articles of the Convention. We should like, however, to point out that the regulations contained in this draft refer to institutions and provisions that have been found to be highly satisfactory, such as the institution of the joint administration of property acquired by the spouses during the marriage as the legal system, which eliminated the restrictions on the married woman that, as earlier noted, were a consequence of the kind of matrimonial contract formerly concluded. Also worth mentioning is the annulment of a former provision establishing a period of two years from the publication of a divorce decree as the time limit for suits involving the partitioning of the community property, thus eliminating the possibility that through ignorance, negligence or lack of legal counsel a woman may lose her entitlement to what is legally due her.

Article 16. Family law

1. As we have already noted, Law No. 855 of 22 July 1978 amended a number of articles and chapters of the Civil Code of the Republic regarding the rights and duties of the spouses and the authority of the father and mother. The effect of these amendments was to bring our legislation into complete harmony with the principles set forth under this article of the Convention. On the assumption that they are self-explanatory, we shall merely mention below the legal provisions corresponding to each paragraph of the article, further noting that their application is ensured:

Paragraphs (a) and (b). Law No. 659 of 17 July 1944 on Acts Affecting Civil Status, article 55

Paragraph 1. "Marriage is an institution originating in a contract concluded between a man and a woman who have expressed their free consent to marry and who possess the capacity required for carrying out this act."

Paragraph 3. "There is no marriage where there is no consent."

Paragraph (c). Civil Code of the Republic

Article 212. "The spouses owe each other mutual fidelity, succour and assistance."

Article 213. "The spouses are jointly responsible for the moral and material direction of the family, the education of their children and their preparation for the future."

Article 214. "Each of the spouses must contribute, to the degree he or she is able, to the expenses of the household and to the education of the children."

Article 215. "The spouses mutually commit themselves to a life community." "The spouses may not, independently of each other, dispose of the rights through which the family dwelling is secured nor of the chattels that furnish it."

Article 224. "Each of the spouses receives his or her earnings, revenue and wages, and may freely dispose of this income after having discharged the obligations of the marriage."

Regarding the dissolution of marriages, we should point out that our law provides for two forms of dissolution: through the death of one of the spouses or through divorce. When a marriage is dissolved through the death of a spouse, the rights of the man and the woman are the same. When dissolution is the result of divorce, the situation is regulated by Law No. 1306 bis of 21 May 1937, which has been amended on several occasions, the last such amendment - and the one in which we are interested - dating back to 1951. Accordingly, given both the age of the law and its history of amendments, it is clear that this legal instrument is no longer in step with the times and that it necessarily requires substantial modification. However, this does not mean that the provisions of this law are, taken together, discriminatory against women, since it is currently recognized as being well and effectively applied. In addition, it is relevant to point out that the rights and responsibilities arising out of the dissolution of a marriage are also the subject of the Civil Code provisions regarding the systems of marriage. These have in fact been brought up to date by a commission appointed under a presidential decree of 1983, and they provide for the participation of the woman on a basis of virtual equality with the man by requiring that she is to share equally in contributing towards the costs of the family. The divorce law has been amended under the draft legislation submitted to the Congress.

Paragraph (d). Civil Code of the Republic

Article 372, paragraph 1. "During the marriage, the father and the mother exercise their authority jointly."

Article 372, paragraph 2. "Vis-à-vis third parties of good faith, each of the spouses is deemed to be acting with the consent of the other when he or she, acting alone, with regard to the person of the child, carries out an act subject to the authority of the father and the mother."

Article 373, paragraph 2. "If the parents are divorced or physically separated, the authority is exercised by that one of them to whom the court has entrusted the custody of the child, without prejudice to the other's rights of visitation and supervision."

Article 374. "The mother shall fully exercise over her natural child the authority of the father and the mother. If the father recognizes the child within three months of its birth, the mother shall continue to exercise this authority, but the father may request the court to have this authority entrusted to him alone or to him and the mother jointly."

In order to guarantee responsibile paternity, in 1950 the lawmaker enacted Law No. 2402 on mandatory assistance to minor children. Article 1 of this law states: "The obligation of parents to provide for their children of less than 18 years of age is a matter of public order and social interest. As a consequence, the father in the first instance and, after him, the mother are required to feed, clothe, support, educate and house their children of less than 18 years of age, whether born within or outside of wedlock, in accordance with the needs of the minors and as permitted by the means available to the parents." A draft law has been prepared, the effect of which would be to modify this provision and bring it up to date.

Paragraph (e)

Since Dominican legislation contains no provisions that regulate, either by conferring or limiting rights, the number or spacing of children, we shall abstain from commenting on this point.

Paragraph (f) 1. Guardianship

During the marriage, the law entrusts the father with the administration of his minor children's personal property, granting this right to the mother only when the marriage has been dissolved as a result of her husband's death. Moreover, looking forward to the time when the mother is to act as guardian, the father is empowered to appoint a special adviser whose function will be to assist her and without whose consent she may not undertake any action in connection with her role as guardian.

These proposals are undoubtedly discriminatory, and for this reason the draft law submitted to the National Congress contains the modifications necessary for eliminating these inequities. In fact, the proposed new law would establish the following: (1) During the marriage, the father and the mother are the administrators of the personal property of their minor children; (2) In the event the marriage is dissolved through death, the right of administration passes to the surviving spouse; and (3) In the event of dissolution through divorce, the right of administration shall belong to the father or to the mother, depending on which of them exercises authority.

Paragraph (f) 2. Trusteeship

Understanding by this term the institution that regulates the administration of the goods of a person of adult age who has been declared as lacking capacity or as being under judicial disability, we might note that although the law recognizes the right of either spouse to seek to have the other placed under legal restraint, the husband is, as a matter of law, the legal trustee of his wife, if the latter is subject to judicial disability; however, the wife "may" be named trustee of her husband, in the manner and under the conditions of administration determined by the family council.

The provisions in respect of this institution have been modified in the proposed draft legislation, which establishes that, as a matter of law, the husband or the wife is the trustee of the other spouse.

If the term "trustee" is understood as referring to the person appointed in the event of a vacant succession, our law does not distinguish between men and women.

Paragraph (f) 3. Adoption

Our legislation does not confer greater or lesser rights on the man or the woman with respect to this institution. Where the situation so requires, the laws regarding legiti ate children are invoked.

Paragraph (g)

By virtue of the fact that women have been granted the same civil and legal capacity as men, they are recognized as having the personal right to choose a family name, an occupation and a profession. Regarding this last-mentioned case, article 220 of the Civil Code asserts that "the woman has the right to exercise a profession without the consent of her husband".

Paragraph (h). Civil Code of the Republic

Article 217. "Each of the spouses is authorized, without the consent of the other, to conclude such contracts as have as their purpose the maintenance and preservation of the household or the education of the children. The other spouse is jointly liable for any debt contracted in this way."

Article 218. "Each of the spouses may, without the consent of the other and in his or her own name, open a current account, a deposit account, a savings account, a securities account or an account of any other kind. The depositor spouse is deemed, in respect of the depositary, to be entitled to dispose freely of the deposited funds and securities."

Article 219. "If one of the spouses presents himself or herself without the other for the purpose of performing an act involving the administration, enjoyment or disposition of an item of personal property which he or she holds individually, such a person is deemed, vis-à-vis third parties of good faith, to be empowered to perform this act alone."

Article 220. Consistent with the recognition of the woman's right to exercise a profession without the consent of her husband, she is also recognized as having the right, "for the requirements of that profession, to transfer or encumber her fully owned personal goods without the consent of her husband".

Article 221. "Under all the marriage systems, and under penalty of the invalidity of any clause to the contrary in the marriage contract, the married woman enjoys full rights of administration and disposition over the proceeds earned through her personal labour and the savings derived therefrom. She may make use of this income to acquire real estate or bearer securities, and may transfer the goods so acquired as well as borrow on them or mortgage them."

Article 224. "Each of the spouses receives his or her earnings, revenue and wages, and may freely dispose of this income after having discharged the obligations of the marriage."

In the draft law submitted to the National Congress a change has been made in the definition and disposition of the goods reserved for the woman in the sense that they are now regarded as belonging to her for beneficial improvement, regardless of what might otherwise be her entitlement under the system of marriage

adopted. Under the laws currently in effect, if the arrangement is one of community property or a joint estate covering the goods acquired during the marriage, such reserved goods become part of the common property unless the woman renounces the community system.

Article 16, paragraph 2

As part of our legal system, Law No. 659 on Acts Affecting Civil Status, as amended in its relevant aspects by Law No. 4999 of 1985, specifies that men below the age of 16 years and women below the age of 15 years may not contract marriage, although a lower-court judge may grant a dispensation in respect of the minimum age for valid grounds. The law also holds that persons below the age of 18 years may not enter into marriage without the consent of their parents or of the surviving parent. In the case of a failure to comply with these provisions, the marriage may be contested by anyone with an interest in the matter, and the Office of the Public Prosecutor must then seek to have the marriage declared invalid and the couple separated.

This same Law No. 659 requires that all marriages are to be recorded at the Civil Registry Offices within 10 days of their celebration.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

I. Legal basis

The Department for the Advancement of Women was established under Decree No. 46 of 17 August 1982, published in the Official Gazette No. 9595 of 31 August 1982.

II. Principal functions

- To plan and implement specific projects designed to promote the integration of women in the socio-economic process;

- To co-ordinate all the activities of the institutions, whether public or private, engaged in carrying out programmes on behalf of women;

- To provide a channel for all the assistance made available by national or international agencies for furthering the development of women;

- To advise the President of the Republic on the formulation and adoption of policies aimed at integrating women in the development process.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (INSTRAW)

Following an offer to that effect, the Dominican Republic had the honour to be selected as the host country for the United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women under an agreement signed with the United Nations on 31 March 1981 in New York. The Institute is an independent agency within the United Nations system, established in conformity with the United Nations Charter to serve as an instrument at the international level, its purposes being to undertake programmes aimed at the integration and mobilization of women in the development process, to sharpen the awareness of women's issues throughout the world, and to better prepare women to deal with new problems and situations.

The establishment in the Dominican Republic of this Institute is of major importance for the reason that its mission in the areas of information, research and training and its implementation of effective programmes and strategies for overcoming the obstacles and limitations that women may face as they seek to participate actively in national development processes are of direct benefit to the Dominican Republic, where the Institute's activities and achievements are daily making themselves felt in every corner of the national territory.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis and study of the circumstances surrounding, and the advances achieved in, the integration of the Dominican woman in the country's development process, as described in the topics briefly discussed in this report, we may conclude that recent years have witnessed a change in the attitude of women, who are now claiming and assuming their role in the political, economic and social life of the Republic - where necessary and where the law is deficient, through appropriate actions. This attitude on the part of women and the recognition by the Dominican State of its responsibility for involving women actively in national life by making available to them the benefits that enable them to perform their rightful role and contribute on equal terms with men to the progress of the nation mark the background against which a commission was appointed to study the provisions in force in Dominican legislation whose application was impeding the comprehensive development of women or which were discriminatory in their regard. As the result of this study, a draft law has been prepared, containing substantial and important modifications to the internal legal system in such different areas as the civil, commercial, labour and criminal laws. Of similarly great importance are the proposed amendments to the agrarian laws, for the reason that the State is fully aware of the valuable contribution of rural women - frequently the principal breadwinners of their families - to economic development. The preparation of this draft law is in response to the commitment undertaken by the Government with the ratification of the Convention to direct its efforts towards the elimination of provisions found to be discriminatory against women.

This draft law has been the object of study and debate at the Workshop Seminar on "The Reform of the Law on the Family, Women and Minors", organized by Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University (UNPHU) under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) from 5 to 7 March 1987.

Particular attention should be called to the work being carried out by the various organized women's groups, a list of which can be found as an annex to this report, as well as of those women who have independently toiled through their participation in seminars, workshops and round tables and in the preparation of research papers on women's issues. The reader will find, as an annex to this report, a list of Dominican documents available at the Documentation Centre of the Dominican Association for Family Welfare, Inc. (PROFAMILIA). These women are devoting their talents and energy to the creation of the kind of legal order that will guarantee the rights of women along with the full exercise of these rights on terms of equality with men. Special mention should be made of the Department for the Advancement of Women as a State agency with responsibility for women's affairs, and of the United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, because of the great importance to the Dominican Republic of the fact that it is the host country for this organization, an importance that derives from the Institute's international outreach and the direct assistance that it provides.

In conclusion, we wish first of all to stress the work which, as indicated in the discussion of article 14 of the Convention, has been carried out by the State in integrating and training rural women, bearing in mind that a great majority of these women are on their own - separated, abandoned or divorced - and must cope with the burden of supporting an average of five family members. Here the State, conscious of the importance of involving women in the country's economic development process, is meeting its responsibility of helping, assisting and training women so as to free them from the daily struggle for survival.

Second, we want to emphasize the importance of the draft law that has been prepared and submitted to the National Congress and through which the State intends to comply, if not fully, then to the degree possible at this time, with the commitments that flow from the ratification of the Convention, commitments that

have been undertaken above all towards that part of the country's population that is as important to it and to its development as are its women. The fact is that one may question the effectiveness of the law when both the groups that guide the behaviour of the people and the individuals for whom the law is intended have not been made aware, at the level of their cultural, moral and social values, of the circumstances surrounding the evolving situation in the application of the relevant legal provisions. It is for this reason that we regard as vitally important the de facto, though not de jure, changes that Dominican women have succeeded in bringing about through the transformation of behavioural patterns, as described in the course of this report. Considering that in the proposed draft legislation these considerations of fact and law are harmonized through an updating of the country's legal systems, we are confident that when the new National Congress begins its work next August, the legislators who comprise it will, out of their deep awareness of the importance that attaches the recognition of women's rights, give this draft law their approval in order that the new provisions may immediately come into force.

Finally, we should like to reaffirm the political determination of the Dominican State to eliminate, over both the immediate and longer term, such differences as may continue to exist between the rights of men and women, and to make available equal opportunities to the entire population. At the same time, we must note that the policies of international adjustment and the protectionist measures being introduced by the industrialized nations are preventing the developing countries from fulfilling their external commitments and implementing the kind of national action plans that by promoting the economic, political and social development of these countries would as a consequence directly contribute to the integration of women in that process.

LIST OF ANNEXES

1. List of organized women's groups

2.* List of Dominican documents available at the PROFAMILIA Documentation Centre

3. Statistical tables (1 to 18)

4.* Law No. 855 of 1978

5.* Draft law amending current legislation discriminatory against women

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* This document is available in Spanish at the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and may be consulted in the offices of the Advancement of Women Branch.

ANNEX 1

List of organized women's groups

A. Research Centre for Women's Action (CIPAF)

B. National Council on Population and the Family (CONAPOFA)

C. Dominican Association for Family Welfare (PROFAMILIA)

D. Women in Development (MUDE)

E. Women in Industry (MAI)

F. Young Women's Guidance Association

G. National Council of Women (CNM)

H. Association of Women Voters

I. Association of Executive and Affiliated Professional Women

J. Women's Bank

K. National Association of Women Lawyers (ANA)

L. Dominican Association of Women Lawyers (ADA)

M. Women's Trade Union Movement

N. Women's Co-operative Movement

O. Professional societies with women's units

P. PROMAPEC

ANNEX 3

Table 1

Population by sex and age in the Dominican Republic according to the 1981 census

Age group	Both sexes	Proportion of both sexes	Men	Women
Total	5 647 977	100.0	2 830 295	2 817 682
0-4	802 808		406 050	396 758
5-9	756 276		383 722	372 554
10-14	739 125		369 565	369 560
0-14	2 298 209	40.7	1 159 337	1 138 872
15-19	703 438		341 890	361 548
20-24	562 103		275 842	286 261
25-29	428 204		211 044	217 160
30-34	341 550		171 460	170 090
35-39	273 442		134 538	138 904
40-44	235 411		119 286	116 125
45-49	196 204		99 818	96 386
50-54	183 758		96 978	86 780
55-59	115 813		61 107	54 706
60-64	104 778		55 382	49 396
15-64	3 144 701	55.7	1 567 345	1 577 356
65-69	73 173		38 973	34 200
70-74	55 468		28 796	26 672
75 and above	76 426		35 844	40 587
65 and above	205 067	3.6	103 613	101 454

Source: National Office of Statistics Sixth National Population Census of 1981, Santo Domingo.

Table 2

Percentage distribution of the population by sex and major age groups

Dominican Republic, 1981

Major age groups	Both sexes	Men	Women
Total	100.0	50.1	49.9
0-14	100.0	50.4	49.6
15-64	100.0	49.8	50.2
65 and above	100.0	50.5	49.5

Source: National Office of Statistics, Sixth National Population Census of 1981, Santo Domingo.

Table 3

Distribution of the population according to urban and rural zones by sex and major age groups

Dominican Republic, 1981

Age groups	Total for the country		
	Both sexes	Men	Women
Total	5 647 977	2 830 295	2 817 682
0-14	2 298 209	1 159 337	1 138 872
15-64	3 144 701	1 567 345	1 577 356
65 and above	205 067	103 613	101 454
	Urban Zones		
Total	2 935 860	1 405 808	1 530 052
0-14	1 104 271	545 531	558 740
15-64	1 732 989	817 061	915 928
65 and above	98 600	43 216	55 384
	Rural Zones		
Total	2 712 117	1 424 487	1 287 630
0-14	1 193 938	613 806	580 132
15-64	1 411 712	750 284	661 428
65 and above	104 467	60 397	46 070

Source: National Office of Statistics, Sixth National Population Census of 1981, Santo Domingo.

Table 3*

Distribution of executive positions among Government employees according to sex

Dominican Republic, 1981

Executive positions	Distribution of employees			Number of women for every 100 men
	Both sexes	Men	Women	
Total	1 304	951	353	37.1
Secretaries of State	15	14	1	7.1
Under-Secretaries of State	33	32	1	3.1
Directors	124	109	15	13.8
Deputy Directors	100	82	18	22.0
Assistants	46	43	3	7.0
Advisers	80	57	23	40.4
Department Heads	350	235	115	48.9
Division Heads	126	86	40	46.5
Section Heads	430	293	137	46.8

Source: Alba, C. La Incidencia de la Mujer en los Cargos Directivos de la Administración Pública Centralizada [The Presence of Women at the Executive Level in Centralized Government], National Office of Administration and Personnel, 1985.

* Translator's note: The double occurrence of Table 3 is in the original Spanish version of the text.

Table 4

Marital status of the population of 15 years of age and above, by sex

Dominican Republic, 1981

Marital status	Both sexes	Men	Women
		Absolute numbers	
Total	3 352 886	1 672 509	1 680 377
Single	1 286 374	748 543	537 831
Married	810 844	399 625	411 219
In a consensual union	927 005	453 540	473 465
Widows/widowers	122 259	22 528	99 731
Divorced or separated	206 404	48 273	158 131
		Relative numbers	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	38.4	44.8	32.0
Married	24.2	23.9	24.5
In a consensual union	27.6	27.1	28.2
Widows/widowers	3.6	1.3	5.9
Divorced or separated	6.2	2.9	9.4

Source: National Office of Statistics, Sixth National Population Census of 1981, Santo Domingo.

Table 5

Percentage distribution of women of from 15 to 49 years of age according to marital status by social class

Dominican Republic, 1975

Social class	Marital status				
	Total	Married	Consensual union	Divorced or separated	Widows
Farmers	100.0	30.2	58.8	9.4	1.6
Agricultural workers	100.0	21.5	61.9	14.7	1.9
Marginal	100.0	37.4	40.2	19.0	3.4
Non-agricultural workers	100.0	25.1	52.4	20.9	1.6
Petits bourgeois	100.0	27.9	46.9	23.8	1.4
Middle class	100.0	47.5	25.1	25.6	1.8

Source: Guzmán, José M. La Fécondité selon Classe Sociale en Republique Dominicaine [Fertility according to Social Class in the Dominican Republic], University of Montreal, 1982.

Table 6

Percentage distribution in the marital status of the population of from 15 to 49 years of age

Dominican Republic, 1981

Marital status	Age groups						
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
				Women			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In a consensual union	14.2	33.8	40.3	41.2	40.7	33.8	27.9
Married	3.8	14.9	26.1	33.6	37.5	40.9	42.6
Divorced or separated	3.0	8.6	10.5	10.8	10.4	12.3	14.2
Widows	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.8
Single	78.9	42.4	22.2	12.8	9.1	8.2	8.4
				Men			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In a consensual union	2.5	17.8	35.9	44.1	45.6	43.2	39.5
Married	0.9	6.3	19.7	28.7	33.1	39.1	44.0
Divorced or separated	0.5	1.4	3.1	3.5	3.9	4.1	3.7
Widowers	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.2
Single	96.1	74.4	41.2	23.3	16.9	12.9	11.6

Source: National Office of Statistics, Sixth National Population Census of 1981, Santo Domingo.

Table 7

Distribution of heads of household according to the age and sex of the household head

Dominican Republic, 1981

Age group	Both sexes	Sex of the head of the household	
		Men	Women
Total	1 075 632	843 654	231 978
15-24	75 943	59 027	16 916
25-34	260 835	220 871	40 014
35-44	249 376	203 600	45 776
45-54	221 770	171 352	50 418
55-64	139 840	102 788	37 052
65 and over	127 818	86 016	41 804

Source: National Office of Statistics, Sixth National Population Census of 1981, Santo Domingo.

Table 8

Proportion of women heads of household and proportion of women of from 15 to 19 years of age who live in households with children of less than 15 years of age and without adult men

Dominican Republic, 1980

Zone	Proportion of women heads of household	Proportion of women of from 15 to 19 years of age who live in households with minor children and without adult men
Total country	20.6	33.5
Urban zones	25.0	33.9
Rural zones	17.2	33.2

Source: Tomado de Báez, Clara. La Subordinación Social de la Mujer Dominicana en Cifras [The Social Subordination of the Dominican Woman in Numbers], Department for the Advancement of Women, United Nations International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, Santo Domingo, 1985.

Table 9*

Number of women graduates of the Institute of Technical Vocational Training according to occupational area

Dominican Republic, 1983-1985

Occupational area	Graduates		
	1983	1984	1985
Total	1 824	2 342	1 973
Agricultural mechanization	-	1	2
Agricultural production	119	170	104
Animal production	351	419	333
Woven fabrics	-	-	12
Industrial garment-making	215	567	376
Wooden furniture	-	-	5
Workshop carpentry	-	1	-
Offset printing	-	15	-
Typesetting and graphics	59	-	8
General mechanics	-	-	-
Welding	-	1	-
Mechanical maintenance	-	-	3
Vehicle maintenance	-	-	2
Motor vehicle electrical systems	-	-	-
Vehicle bodywork and painting	2	-	-
Electrical installation and maintenance	36	53	10
Refrigeration and air conditioning maintenance	15	-	-
Plumbing	-	3	-
Masonry	-	-	-
Secretarial skills	294	295	295
Accounting	120	149	124
Warehouse management	-	-	62
Sales	50	43	9
Bar and restaurant service	15	41	36
Chambermaids and other room attendants	-	88	110
Road safety	-	-	6
Domestic service	4	30	150
Training of supervisors	114	112	243
Seminars on the development and management of small enterprises	-	-	67
Other courses as agreed with enterprises	428	350	14
Lathe operator (individualized training)	1	1	-

Source: Institute of Technical Vocational Training.

* Translator's note: For technical reasons, table 8 of the Spanish original could not be reproduced in the English translation.

Table 10

Distribution of the civilian graduates of the vocational schools of the armed forces and national police, according to area of specialization and sex

Dominican Republic, 1980

Area of specialization	Distribution of the graduates	
	Men	Women
Total	1 487	834
Masonry	114	-
Graphic arts	32	-
Shell crafts	13	-
Wood crafts	11	-
Carpentry and cabinetmaking	6	-
Carpentry	51	-
Auto bodywork and painting	78	-
Cabinetmaking	76	-
Electricity in the home	21	-
Industrial electricity	64	-
Electromechanics	19	-
Electronics	18	-
Blacksmithing	22	-
Blacksmithing and forging	29	-
Agricultural mechanics	87	-
Automotive mechanics	87	-
Diesel mechanics	88	-
General mechanics	88	-
Industrial mechanics	27	-
Painting and decoration	46	-
Plumbing	70	-
Radio and television	53	
Refrigeration and air conditioning	76	-
Tailoring	45	-
Industrial welding	140	-
Welding and blacksmithing	12	-
Wood carving	10	-
Upholstering	41	-
Lathe and mill operation	28	-
Automatic transmissions	13	-
Shoemaking	22	-
Ceramics	-	123
Cutting and garment-making	-	203
Cosmetology	-	175
Nursing	-	26
Manual skills	-	130
Confectionery	-	177

Source: De Lancer, V. Oferta Educativa Técnico-Profesional Dominicana [Technical Vocational Training Opportunities in the Dominican Republic], INTEC-AIRD-AID, 1981.

School enrolment by educational level and sex

Dominican Republic, 1980-1984

Sex	Year										Estimated coverage in 1984, %
	1980	%	1981	%	1982	%	1983	%	1984	%	
PRE-SCHOOL											
Both sexes							39 680				7.0
PRIMARY											
Both sexes	908 591	100.0	933 808	100.0	955 100	100.0	982 794	100.0	949 444	100.0	
Males	461 341	50.78	474 656	50.83	488 355	51.1	504 164	51.3	483 643	50.9	73.0
Females	447 250	49.22	459 152	49.17	466 745	48.9	478 630	48.7	465 801	49.1	
SECONDARY											
Both sexes	249 918	100.0	281 261	100.0	309 415	100.0	314 650	100.0	327 464	100.0	
Males	116 996	46.8	130 511	46.4	144 502	46.7	145 890	46.4	148 351	45.3	47.4*
Females	132 922	53.2	150 750	53.6	164 913	53.3	168 760	53.6	179 113	54.7	
TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL											
Both sexes	5 942	100.0	6 185	100.0	6 394	100.0	8 357	100.0			
Males	1 459	24.55	1 513	24.5	1 673	26.2	2 187	26.2		NOT AVAILABLE	
Females	4 483	75.45	4 672	75.5	4 721	73.8	6 170	73.8			
ADULT EDUCATION**											
Both sexes	85 176	100.0	89 582	100.0	100 668	100.0	93 529	100.0			
Males	49 469	58.1	52 256	58.3	59 874	59.5	55 628	59.5		NOT AVAILABLE	
Females	35 707	41.9	37 326	41.7	40 794	40.5	37 901	40.5			

Source: Ministry of Education, Fine Arts and Religious Affairs.

* Includes secondary technical vocational education, whose graduates hold both technical and secondary school ("Bachelor") certificates.

** Does not include those enrolled in the Work Training Schools.

Table 12

Absolute and relative distribution of the population of five years of age and over* by educational level according to sex and year. Illiteracy rate by sex for those 10 years of age and over

Dominican Republic, 1960, 1970, 1981

Level and sex	Population according to year					
	1960		1970		1980	
	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative
Both sexes	1 400 720	100.0	1 805 871	100.0	3 380 712	100.0
Primary**	1 335 830	95.4	1 635 282	90.6	2 735 296	80.9
Secondary	53 270	3.8	135 491	7.5	486 991	14.4
University	11 620	0.8	35 098	1.9	158 425	4.7
Men	711 590	50.8	899 125	49.8	1 682 319	49.8
Primary	675 210	48.2	809 268	44.8	1 368 829	40.5
Secondary	27 480	2.0	67 880	3.8	226 125	6.7
University	8 900	0.6	21 977	1.2	85 365	2.5
Women	689 130	49.2	906 746	50.2	1 698 393	50.2
Primary	660 820	47.2	826 014	45.8	1 366 467	40.3
Secondary	25 790	1.8	67 611	3.7	258 866	7.7
University	2 720	0.2	13 121	0.7	73 060	2.2

Illiteracy rate in the population 10 years of age and older	Both sexes	Men	Women
1960	34.2	33.1	35.3
1970	34.2	32.9	34.5
1981	26.1	26.2	26.1

Source: National Office of Statistics, Population Censuses of 1960, 1970 and 1981, Santo Domingo.

* Does not include the population without pre-primary-level schooling or persons with an unspecified level of schooling.

** The primary level consists of eight years of study, including two so-called intermediate years.

Table 13

Percentage distribution of the economically active female population of 10 years of age and older, in the agricultural sector, according to occupational category

Dominican Republic, 1980

Occupational category	Percentage distribution
Total	100.00
Owners	1.8
Wage earners	42.0
- Permanent	6.5
- For production	91.3
- Others	2.2
Independent workers (i.e., women working on their own account)	16.6
Family workers	34.1
Occasional workers	0.2
Unaccounted	5.3

Source: National Office of Statistics, National Office of Planning, National Survey of the Rural Work-force, October 1980, Santo Domingo.

Table 14

Percentage distribution of the economically active population and proportion of women in each group

Dominican Republic, 1980

Occupational group	Percentage	Proportion of women in each group
Total	100.0	27.2
Professionals	8.2	52.0
Technicians and the like		
Managers, administrators and the like	5.6	34.9
Office employees and the like	10.4	50.1
Salesmen and the like	12.2	31.9
Agricultural workers and the like	13.9	10.4
Mine and quarry workers and the like	0.1	22.5
Drivers of transport vehicles	0.2	1.5
Craftsmen and machine operators	-	19.3
Skilled and unskilled workers	1.6	8.5
Personal services and the like	35.1	65.7
Home workers	25.5	97.0
Other services	9.6	35.3
Occupations not well specified	2.4	53.3

Source: National Office of Statistices, National Census of 1980. National Office of Statistics and National Office of Planning, National Survey of the Urban Work-force, June 1980; National Survey of the Rural Work-force, October 1980.

Table 15

Distribution of the economically active female population of 15 years of age and older in the domestic service sector, according to place of residence

Dominican Republic, 1980

Place of residence	Percentage distribution	Estimated total number
Urban zone 1980	27.0	86 400
Rural zone 1980	22.8	73 644
Santo Domingo 1980	33.4	50 712
Santo Domingo 1983	27.4	51 718

Source: Estimates prepared by Clara Báez on the basis of the proportions revealed by the urban and rural work-force surveys for Santo Domingo carried out by the National Office of Statistics and the National Office of Planning.

Table 16

Percentage distribution of the economically active female population of 15 years of age and older according to branch of economic activity, and the proportion of women in each branch

Dominican Republic, 1980

Branch of economic activity	%	Proportion of women in each branch
Total	100.0	27.2
Agriculture, silviculture, hunting and fishing	16.0	11.8
Mines and quarries	0.2	12.1
Manufacturing industry	13.2	28.1
Construction	0.4	2.3
Electricity, gas and fertilizers	0.6	17.8
Commerce	18.9	33.4
Transport, warehousing and communications	0.6	6.3
Financial studies and the like	1.6	30.5
Services	45.7	52.9
- Public administration	4.5	20.3
- Sanitation services and the like	13.3	53.3
- Household services	24.8	93.6
- Other services	3.1	24.2
Activities not well specified	2.8	68.7

Source: National Office of Statistics and National Office of Planning, National Survey of the Urban Work-force, June 1980; National Survey of the Rural Work-force, October 1980, Santo Domingo.

Table 17

Volume of the economically active population of 10 years of age and older according to sex

Dominican Republic, 1970, 1980 and 1985

Year	Active population (in thousands)			Number of women for every 100 men
	Total	Male	Female	
1970	1 241.0	922.1	317.9	34.5
1980	2 111.5	1 446.9	664.6	45.9
1985	2 529.4	1 727.4	802.0	46.4

Source: Prepared on the basis of 1970 census data, the 1980 work-force surveys, and projections of the National Office of Statistics with the collaboration of the Institute of Population and Development Study and other institutions.

Table 16*

Total rate of participation in economic activity of the population of 10 years of age and older according to sex, and proportion of women

Dominican Republic, 1970, 1980 and 1985

Year	1970	1980	1985
Total rate	23.7	33.3	35.0
Proportion of women	25.6	31.5	31.7

Source: Prepared on the basis of 1970 census data, the 1980 work-force surveys, and projections of the National Office of Statistics with the collaboration of the Institute of Population and Development Study and other institutions.

* Translator's note: The double occurrence and misplacing of this table is in the Spanish original.

Table 18

Budget implemented by the Ministry of the Presidency and the Department for the Advancement of Women

Dominican Republic, 1983-1984

Budget of the Ministry of the Presidency	Percentage of the national budget	Budget of the Department for the Advancement of Women	Percentage of the budget of the Ministry of the Presidency	Department for the Advancement of Women		
				Direction and co-ordination	Organization and training	Administration and monitoring of projects
186 951 132	15.6	95 785	0.05	95 785	-	-
155 254 640	12.1	130 964	0.08	123 709	5 697	1 558

Source: National Office of the Budget.